

Health Care Financing Notes

Medicare: Persons Enrolled, 1978

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1978 persons
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Office of Research, Demonstrations, and Statistics

Health Care Financing Notes

The Health Care Financing Administration was established to combine health financing and quality assurance programs into a single agency. HCFA is responsible for the Medicare program, Federal participation in the Medicaid program, the Professional Standards Review Organization program, and a variety of other health care quality assurance programs.

The mission of the Health Care Financing Administration is to promote the timely delivery of appropriate, quality health care to its beneficiaries—approximately 47 million of the nation's aged, disabled, and poor. The Agency must also ensure that program beneficiaries are aware of the services for which they are eligible, that those services are accessible and of high quality, and that Agency policies and actions promote efficiency and quality within the total health care delivery system.

HCFA's Office of Research, Demonstrations, and Statistics (ORDS) conducts studies and projects that demonstrate and evaluate optional reimbursement, coverage, eligibility, and management alternatives to the present Federal programs. ORDS also assesses the impact of HCFA programs on health care costs, program expenditures, beneficiary access to services, health care providers, and the health care industry. In addition, ORDS monitors national health care expenditures and prices and provides actuarial analyses on the costs of current HCFA programs as well as the impact of possible legislative or administrative changes in the programs.

The purpose of the ***Health Care Financing Notes*** is to provide the public with descriptive program data or information as soon as it becomes available. Data are presented here in a brief, concise format. Frequently a more comprehensive analysis of the data may be available at a later time in one of the Health Care Financing Administration's other publications.

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Medicare: Persons Enrolled, 1978

By Edye Peterson and
Herbert A. Silverman

This report presents, for the first time, data on the number of aged and disabled persons enrolled under the hospital insurance (HI) and the supplementary medical insurance (SMI) programs of Medicare in 1978. Table 1 shows enrollment trends since the program began in 1966. Between 1966 and 1972, only persons 65 years of age and over were eligible for Medicare benefits. The Social Security Amendments of 1972 extended Medicare benefits to two new groups of persons: (1) disabled persons who had been receiving Social Security cash benefits for 24 consecutive months, and (2) persons with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). (See Definitions.) Medicare coverage for these groups of beneficiaries began on July 1, 1973. Because of the interest in the number of persons with ESRD, aged and disabled persons with ESRD are shown separately in Table 1. They are also included, as indicated in the footnotes to the Table, in the totals for the aged and disabled.

Table 2 shows the enrollment, as of July 1, 1978, of persons aged 65 and over in the HI and SMI programs by census region and division and State of residence. In Table 3, the enrollment of disabled beneficiaries in the HI and SMI programs is also shown by census region and division and State of residence, as of July 1, 1978.

While the aged may enroll for SMI only, disabled persons are not permitted this option. Therefore, the number of disabled persons enrolled for HI ostensibly represents the total number of disabled enrolled for Medicare. For this reason, the total of disabled persons enrolled for HI and/or SMI is not shown in Table 3. In exceptional cases, however, disabled persons once deemed eligible for HI may later be found to be

ineligible. These persons are permitted to maintain eligibility for SMI through continued payment of the premium. Inspection of Table 1 shows these cases occur infrequently.

Highlights of the data follow:

All Beneficiaries

As of July 1, 1978 there were 27,164,222 aged and disabled (including those with end-stage renal disease) beneficiaries covered under the hospital insurance (HI) and/or supplementary medical insurance (SMI) programs of Medicare.

Aged

- As of July 1, 1978, the number of aged persons enrolled for HI and/or SMI was 24,370,986. This total represents about a 28 percent increase over the number enrolled in 1966 (19,108,822). The average annual rate of increase between 1966 and 1978 has been about 2 percent.
- Within the United States, the largest number of aged beneficiaries, 7,702,445 (about 32 percent of the total) lived in the South.

Disabled

- As of July 1, 1978, 2,793,236 disabled persons were enrolled under HI and/or SMI, including 36,365 persons under 65 years of age with end-stage renal disease (ESRD). These totals represent an increase of about 61 percent since 1973 (1,730,538), the first year that the disabled covered under Medicare. The average annual rate of increase between 1973 and 1978 has been about 10 percent.
- Within the United States, the largest number of disabled Medicare beneficiaries, 1,005,507 (about 37 percent of the total) lived in the South. Of the persons under 65 with ESRD and covered under Medicare, the largest number, 11,700 (about 32 percent of the total) lived in the South.

This report is one of a series prepared in the Office of Research, Judith Lave, Director, to describe the number and distribution of beneficiaries of the Medicare and Medicaid programs administered by the Health Care Financing Administration. This report was written under the administrative supervision of Allen Dobson, Director, Division of Beneficiary Studies.

Definitions

Aged — Almost all persons aged 65 and over are eligible for benefits under the hospital insurance program. Those persons entitled to monthly Social Security cash benefits or payments from the Railroad Retirement system are also included. Further, a special transitional provision provides eligibility for certain persons who do not qualify for monthly cash benefits on the basis of their own covered employment or as a dependent or survivor of an insured worker. The provision applies, generally, to a person aged 65 or over who (1) attained age 65 before 1968 or (2) attained age 65 after 1967 with not less than three quarters of Social Security coverage, whenever acquired for each calendar year elapsing after 1966 and before the year in which he attains age 65. For persons who reach age 65 after 1968, the amount of work credits (quarters of coverage) needed increases by three quarters each year. (For example, six quarters are needed by those who reach 65 in 1969, nine quarters are needed by those who reach 65 in 1970, and so on.) The transitional provision does not apply to persons attaining age 65 after 1974.

Disabled — Effective July 1, 1973, disabled persons entitled, for not less than 24 consecutive months, to cash benefits under the Social Security or Railroad Retirement programs are eligible for benefits under the hospital insurance program. Those covered include: disabled workers under 65 years; disabled widows and disabled dependent widowers between the ages of 50 and 65; women age 50 or older entitled to mother's benefits who for 24 months met requirements for disability benefits but did not file a claim; and disabled

beneficiaries aged 18 or over who became disabled before age 22. A person must be disabled for five months before disability benefits can begin. Medicare coverage begins with the thirtieth month after the first full calendar month of disability. This category also includes persons with end-stage renal disease who have been receiving cash benefits for 24 consecutive months. These persons are shown in the tables as "disabled with end-stage renal disease."

End-Stage Renal Disease Only — Effective July 1, 1973, hospital insurance protection was also extended to persons under age 65 who are currently or fully insured or entitled to monthly Social Security benefits, and to their spouses or dependent children who have end-stage renal disease and require renal dialysis or a kidney transplant. Effective October 1, 1978, coverage was extended to persons 65 years and over who were currently insured, but not fully insured, to qualify for Medicare by reason of age. Eligibility for coverage begins the third month after a course in renal dialysis begins, or before this qualifying dialysis period for ESRD beneficiaries receiving kidney transplants, without starting or receiving dialysis in preparation for transplantation, or if a patient enters a self care training program. Eligibility ends the twelfth month after dialysis was terminated or 36 months after a renal transplant. These persons are deemed disabled and counted among the disabled; however, as a subgroup, they are shown in the tables as "end-stage renal disease only" or "ESRD only."

TABLE 1
Number of Aged and Disabled Beneficiaries Enrolled in Medicare by Type of Coverage, as of July 1, 1966–1978

Enrollment Year	Hospital and/or Supplementary Medical Insurance						
	All Beneficiaries	Aged ¹	Disabled ²	Persons with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)			
				All Persons with ESRD	Disabled with ESRD	ESRD Only	Aged with ESRD
1966	19,108,822	19,108,822	—	—	—	—	—
1967	19,521,000	19,521,000	—	—	—	—	—
1968	19,821,000	19,821,000	—	—	—	—	—
1969	20,102,741	20,102,741	—	—	—	—	—
1970	20,490,908	20,490,908	—	—	—	—	—
1971	20,914,896	20,914,896	—	—	—	—	—
1972	21,332,120	21,332,120	—	—	—	—	—
1973	23,545,363	21,814,825	1,730,538	³	³	³	³
1974	24,201,042	22,272,920	1,928,122	18,564	6,135	10,087	2,342
1975	24,958,552	22,790,157	2,168,395	28,110	9,131	12,702	6,277
1976	25,662,921	23,270,739	2,392,182	37,094	12,668	14,721	9,705
1977	26,457,899	23,838,478	2,619,421	42,984	15,247	16,514	11,223
1978	27,164,222	24,370,986	2,793,236	50,085	18,068	18,297	13,720
Hospital Insurance							
1966	19,082,454	19,082,454	—	—	—	—	—
1967	19,493,895	19,493,895	—	—	—	—	—
1968	19,769,701	19,769,701	—	—	—	—	—
1969	20,014,235	20,014,235	—	—	—	—	—
1970	20,361,152	20,361,152	—	—	—	—	—
1971	20,742,250	20,742,250	—	—	—	—	—
1972	21,115,261	21,115,261	—	—	—	—	—
1973	23,301,082	21,570,544	1,730,538	³	3,235	6,371	³
1974	23,924,145	21,996,029	1,928,116	18,513	6,135	10,081	2,297
1975	24,640,497	22,472,104	2,168,393	27,923	9,130	12,702	6,091
1976	25,312,575	22,920,417	2,392,158	36,811	12,666	14,721	9,424
1977	26,093,919	23,474,546	2,619,373	42,648	15,245	16,514	10,889
1978	26,777,263	23,984,057	2,793,206	49,667	18,064	18,293	13,310
Supplementary Medical Insurance							
1966	17,735,966	17,735,966	—	—	—	—	—
1967	17,893,012	17,893,012	—	—	—	—	—
1968	18,804,815	18,804,815	—	—	—	—	—
1969	19,194,708	19,194,708	—	—	—	—	—
1970	19,584,387	19,584,387	—	—	—	—	—
1971	19,974,692	19,974,692	—	—	—	—	—
1972	20,351,273	20,351,273	—	—	—	—	—
1973	22,490,534	20,920,660	1,569,879	³	3,038	6,265	³
1974	23,166,570	21,421,545	1,745,025	17,767	5,873	9,579	2,315
1975	23,904,551	21,945,301	1,959,250	27,154	8,837	12,080	6,237
1976	24,614,402	22,445,911	2,168,491	35,933	12,314	13,977	9,642
1977	25,363,468	22,990,826	2,372,642	41,507	14,880	15,466	11,161
1978	26,074,085	23,530,893	2,543,192	48,487	17,674	17,167	13,646

¹ Includes all persons aged 65 and over, including those with end-stage renal disease.

² Includes all persons under 65, including those with end-stage renal disease.

³ Data not available.

TABLE 2
Persons Aged 65 Years and Over Enrolled for Health Insurance
by Type of Coverage, Census Region and Division, and State of Residence, July 1, 1978¹

Area of Residence	Hospital and/or Supplementary Insurance	Hospital Insurance	Supplementary Medical Insurance
All areas	24,370,986	23,984,057	23,530,893
United States ²	23,908,504	<i>26,228,646</i> 23,522,710	23,342,759
Regions			
Northeastern States	5,810,360	5,730,399	5,689,810
North Central States	6,429,138	<i>8838,323</i> 6,360,929	6,293,878
South	7,702,445	<i>7,529,816</i> 7,529,816	<i>32.5</i> 7,495,663
West	3,944,557	<i>4339,071</i> 3,881,893	<i>16.5</i> 3,843,571
Divisions			
The Northeastern States			
New England	1,451,626	1,433,814	1,423,330
Middle Atlantic	4,358,734	4,296,585	4,266,480
The North Central States			
East North Central	4,296,831	4,248,283	4,204,599
West North Central	2,132,307	2,112,646	2,089,279
The South			
South Atlantic	3,898,110	3,812,550	3,796,482
East South Central	1,545,606	1,504,670	1,507,505
West South Central	2,258,729	2,212,596	2,191,676
The West			
Mountain	962,404	950,173	932,157
Pacific	2,982,153	2,931,720	2,911,414
States			
New England			
Maine	137,468	135,753	135,001
New Hampshire	98,386	97,682	95,827
Vermont	56,583	55,912	55,585
Massachusetts	694,554	684,768	680,204
Rhode Island	120,229	118,695	117,935
Connecticut	344,406	341,004	338,778
Middle Atlantic			
New York	2,089,419	2,053,432	2,043,363
New Jersey	815,349	805,011	802,234
Pennsylvania	1,453,966	1,438,142	1,420,883
East North Central			
Ohio	1,117,861	1,100,858	1,087,612
Indiana	558,167	554,992	545,756
Illinois	1,201,372	1,185,735	1,174,077
Michigan	874,126	865,462	859,278
Wisconsin	545,305	541,236	537,876
West North Central			
Minnesota	463,836	459,854	456,262
Iowa	378,891	376,420	372,547
Missouri	623,494	615,964	608,339
North Dakota	78,957	78,106	77,207
South Dakota	89,274	88,388	87,081
Nebraska	201,123	199,684	197,260
Kansas	296,732	294,230	290,583

(Continued)

TABLE 2 (Continued)
Persons Aged 65 Years and Over Enrolled for Health Insurance
by Type of Coverage, Census Region and Division, and State of Residence, July 1, 1978¹

Area of Residence	Hospital and/or Supplementary Insurance	Hospital Insurance	Supplementary Medical Insurance
South Atlantic			
Delaware	55,754	55,220	54,506
Maryland	360,675	353,235	347,514
District of Columbia	70,175	65,995	64,891
Virginia	462,140	453,380	445,108
West Virginia	225,293	221,314	220,238
North Carolina	548,037	537,460	535,533
South Carolina	259,116	252,055	250,727
Georgia	469,583	455,586	457,735
Florida	1,447,337	1,418,305	1,420,230
East South Central			
Kentucky	388,714	379,391	380,509
Tennessee	478,463	467,480	468,141
Alabama	407,785	395,844	396,754
Mississippi	270,644	261,955	262,101
West South Central			
Arkansas	290,365	283,872	283,475
Louisiana	366,402	361,050	342,542
Oklahoma	350,833	343,353	341,032
Texas	1,251,129	1,224,321	1,224,627
Mountain			
Montana	81,473	80,711	79,485
Idaho	87,982	87,386	85,735
Wyoming	36,060	35,894	34,965
Colorado	231,546	227,939	224,763
New Mexico	105,149	102,469	101,136
Arizona	263,563	260,515	255,863
Utah	100,876	100,234	96,159
Nevada	55,755	55,025	54,051
Pacific			
Washington	399,512	395,676	389,519
Oregon	282,216	281,215	272,754
California	2,223,932	2,180,066	2,176,430
Alaska	9,656	9,586	8,095
Hawaii	66,837	65,177	64,616
Residence Unknown	22,004	19,673	19,837
Outlying Areas			
Guam	1,950	1,593	1,567
Puerto Rico	244,364	243,719	143,920
Virgin Islands	4,010	3,948	3,581
Other Outlying Areas	751	751	314
Foreign Countries	211,407	211,336	38,752

¹ Based on data recorded in the Health Insurance master file on March 30, 1979.

² Consists of 50 States, District of Columbia, and Residence Unknown.

TABLE 3
Disability Beneficiaries Enrolled for Health Insurance
by Type of Coverage, Census Regions and Division, and State of Residence, July 1, 1978¹

Area of Residence	Hospital Insurance			Supplementary Medical Insurance		
	Total ²	Disabled with End-Stage Renal Disease	End-Stage Renal Disease Only	Total ²	Disabled with End-Stage Renal Disease	End-Stage Renal Disease Only
All areas	2,793,206	18,064	18,293	2,543,192	17,674	17,167
United States ³	2,705,939	17,868	18,107	2,511,231	17,495	17,010
Regions						
Northeastern States	596,909	4,503	4,474	551,183	4,435	4,176
North Central States	641,994	3,919	4,131	592,508	3,815	3,909
South	1,005,507	5,976	5,724	937,672	5,857	5,385
West	457,178	3,434	3,334	426,004	3,354	3,179
Divisions						
The Northeastern States						
New England	133,395	1,063	964	121,121	1,036	891
Middle Atlantic	463,514	3,440	3,510	430,062	3,399	3,285
The North Central States						
East North Central	469,200	2,872	3,176	432,928	2,801	3,004
West North Central	172,794	1,047	955	159,580	1,014	905
The South						
South Atlantic	501,536	3,193	2,969	467,650	3,143	2,790
East South Central	231,164	1,106	1,004	218,116	1,072	942
West South Central	272,807	1,677	1,751	251,906	1,642	1,653
The West						
Mountain	103,917	590	690	94,722	570	655
Pacific	353,261	2,844	2,644	331,282	2,784	2,524
States						
New England						
Maine	14,960	69	47	13,963	66	46
New Hampshire	8,690	46	42	7,662	45	39
Vermont	5,921	27	28	5,466	27	27
Massachusetts	61,118	561	471	55,629	546	441
Rhode Island	12,707	89	100	11,182	87	87
Connecticut	29,999	271	276	27,219	265	251
Middle Atlantic						
New York	221,401	1,668	1,728	204,293	1,648	1,610
New Jersey	86,651	879	778	81,511	870	724
Pennsylvania	155,462	893	1,004	144,258	881	951
East North Central						
Ohio	135,017	609	724	123,794	586	684
Indiana	60,586	337	381	55,755	326	364
Illinois	109,754	953	1,063	101,535	938	1,018
Michigan	115,845	665	696	107,070	652	642
Wisconsin	47,998	308	312	44,774	299	296
West North Central						
Minnesota	33,834	242	209	31,608	235	202
Iowa	28,663	176	141	26,505	174	134
Missouri	63,805	331	303	59,186	316	282
North Dakota	5,677	33	34	5,140	32	33
South Dakota	6,766	35	38	6,114	35	36
Nebraska	13,225	81	85	11,865	79	82
Kansas	20,824	149	145	19,162	143	136

(Continued)

TABLE 3 (Continued)
Disability Beneficiaries Enrolled for Health Insurance
by Type of Coverage, Census Regions and Division, and State of Residence, July 1, 1978¹

Area of Residence	Hospital Insurance			Supplementary Medical Insurance		
	Total ²	Disabled with End-Stage Renal Disease	End-Stage Renal Disease Only	Total ²	Disabled with End-Stage Renal Disease	End-Stage Renal Disease Only
South Atlantic						
Delaware	6,521	62	50	5,884	60	45
Maryland	37,988	279	395	34,566	270	371
District of Columbia	8,026	138	181	7,360	137	156
Virginia	62,535	553	474	57,724	544	450
West Virginia	42,308	109	105	39,845	105	99
North Carolina	84,810	612	383	79,596	608	359
South Carolina	46,902	231	233	43,974	228	218
Georgia	81,900	445	436	77,595	437	416
Florida	130,546	764	712	121,106	754	676
East South Central						
Kentucky	57,882	205	184	54,186	197	175
Tennessee	71,089	361	334	67,289	347	319
Alabama	59,194	352	317	55,981	345	289
Mississippi	42,999	188	169	40,660	183	159
West South Central						
Arkansas	42,836	146	106	39,937	145	103
Louisiana	59,307	320	343	53,221	314	310
Oklahoma	39,356	163	154	36,301	156	145
Texas	131,308	1,048	1,148	122,447	1,027	1,095
Mountain						
Montana	8,519	41	38	7,933	41	36
Idaho	9,033	53	32	8,283	52	30
Wyoming	2,868	19	18	2,601	19	15
Colorado	22,576	157	212	20,403	150	199
New Mexico	14,472	78	92	13,268	75	89
Arizona	30,008	125	168	27,316	120	161
Utah	9,093	59	72	8,110	56	69
Nevada	7,348	58	58	6,808	57	56
Pacific						
Washington	42,105	402	287	38,607	387	275
Oregon	30,746	140	141	27,051	133	126
California	272,320	2,179	2,076	258,340	2,143	1,991
Alaska	1,285	10	21	1,107	9	20
Hawaii	6,805	113	119	6,177	112	112
Residence Unknown	4,351	36	444	3,864	34	361
Outlying Areas						
Guam	167	2	11	148	2	11
Puerto Rico	75,259	181	161	29,181	165	135
Virgin Islands	397	7	6	356	7	5
Other Outlying Areas	101	0	1	69	0	1
Foreign Countries	11,343	6	7	2,207	5	5

¹ Based on data recorded in the Health Insurance master file on March 30, 1979.

² Includes "disabled with end-stage renal disease" and "end-stage renal disease only."

³ Consists of 50 States, District of Columbia, and Residence Unknown.

Health Care Financing Notes

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Patricia Roberts Harris, Secretary

Health Care Financing Administration

Howard N. Newman, Administrator

**Office of Research, Demonstrations, and
Statistics**

James M. Kaple, Acting Director

*Jean LeMasurier, Director, Program Planning
and Support*

*Karen Pelham O'Steen, Research Publications
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Donna L. Eskow, Writer-editor

Carol J. Pianalto, Writer-editor

Alice L. Young, Writer-editor

Cynthia Dingle, Editorial Assistant

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